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MINISTER APPOINTS CHIEF FEDERAL NEGOTIATOR ON CLAIM TALKS WITH THE MOHAWKS OF THE BAY OF QUINTE

GATINEAU, QUEBEC (January 9, 2007) – The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, today announced the appointment of Sean Kennedy as Chief Federal Negotiator to the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte's Culbertson Tract specific claim.

"I have full confidence in Mr. Kennedy's abilities to advance the work to resolve the First Nation's specific claim and related issues," said Minister Prentice. "This appointment demonstrates the Government of Canada's commitment to making progress on this complex land claim and to finding common solutions through dialogue."

The First Nation's claim alleges that approximately 827 acres of land was improperly alienated from the First Nation in 1837. The Government of Canada accepted the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte's claim under Canada's Specific Claims Policy in November of 2003.

Mr. Kennedy's work will be informed by a recent fact finding exercise, which sought the views of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and local community interests.

The Government of Canada is committed to honouring its lawful obligations to First Nations by resolving outstanding grievances to the benefit of all Canadians. Private property is not expropriated to settle claims. Negotiated settlements bring economic benefits to First Nations and local economies.

For more information, please contact:

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Sean Kennedy

Sean Kennedy is an independent consultant, with extensive experience in complex multilateral negotiations of land claims involving First Nations across the country, various provincial governments and the Government of Canada. Mr. Kennedy also has considerable experience in leading federal negotiating teams and in liaising with Aboriginal organizations and interested third parties in the context of land claim negotiations.

Mr. Kennedy held various positions in the Specific Claims Branch of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada between 1981 and 1986. As Federal Negotiator, Mr. Kennedy successfully negotiated settlements of three Treaty Land Entitlement claims in Alberta.

Mr. Kennedy left the federal public service in 1991 and established Sean Kennedy Consulting. As a contractor, Mr. Kennedy specializes in land claim negotiations, claim research and treaty and other policy development. He has been retained for his skills and expertise by Aboriginal organizations, individual First Nations, various provincial governments and the Government of Canada. As Chief Federal Negotiator, Mr. Kennedy successfully concluded negotiations to recognize a new First Nation in Manitoba.

Mr. Kennedy is currently on contract with the Government of Canada as Chief Federal Negotiator for the Missanabie Cree First Nation's Treaty Land Entitlement claim in Ontario.



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